

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W

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R 292054Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8195

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ES

SUBJ: SAN LORENZO HYDOELECTRIC PROJECT

REF: STATE 122041; SAN SALVADOR 183

1. VALIENTE HAS NOT YET DISCUSSED INTEREST IN SEPARATE EVALUATION WITH HARZA PERSONNEL BUT INTENDS TO DO SO BEFORE AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT BEGINS REVIEW.

E DOES NOT CONSIDER HARZA PERSONNEL NOW IN COUNTRY AS APPROPRIATE CONTACTS FOR DISCUSSION OF CEL'S INTEREST IN REVIEWING PROJECT DESIGN FOR SAN LORENZO AND HE IS WAITING FOR A VISIT FROM HARZ D'S REGIONAL REP FROM CHICAGO.

2. SPECIFICALLY BOTH VALIENTE AND CEL TECH STAFF FIND PROPOSED DESIGN OF CONCRETE DAM WHICH CALLS FOR 7 MILLION CUBIC METERS EXCAVATION TO REACH BED ROCK AS TOO EXPENSIVE. PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION - IRRIGATION CANAL ALSO SEEMS EXPENSIVE.

3. VALIENTE ASSURED EMBOFF NOTHING WILL BE DONE WITHOUT HARZA'S KNOWLEDGE. IMPLICITLY CEL DOES NOT NEED HARZA'S CONCURRENCE OR APPROVAL, CEL IS GOING AHEAD WITH SEARCH FOR INDEPENDENT TOP QUALITY HYDRO ENGINEER TO PERFORM REVIEW AND HAS CONTACTED IESC WITH REQUEST. THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE A QUALIFIED RETIREE-VOLUNTEER. EMBOFF HAS ALSO HEARD THAT CEL MAY HAVE DISCUSSED REQUEST WITH EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE CPRESENTATIVES HERE.

4. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPT'S SENSITIVITIES BUT BELIEVES
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CEL FULL INTENDS TO EMPLOY SOMEONE TO PERFORM REVIEW WITH OR

WITHOUT USG ASSISTANCE. THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME CEL HAS OBTAINED
INDEPENDENT REVIEWS OF PROJECTS DESIGNED BY HARZA AND EMBASSY
DOES NOT BELIEVE REVIEW WILL HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON HARZA-
CEL RELATIONS.

5. VALIENTE STRONGLY PREFERS TO EMPLOY USG EXPERT FROM FPC,
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OR ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. HE WAS
ESPECIALLY WELL IMPRESSED DURIBOCISIT TO FPC DENVER. EMBASSY
STRONGLY RECOMMENDS USG MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LOCATE AND MAKE
AVAILABLE A FULLY QUALIFIED ENGINEER REIMBURSABLE BASIS. BARRING
AVAILABILITY USG EXPERT, VALIENTE PREFERS A RETIREE PROBABLY
THROUGH IESC. THIRD CHOICE WOULD BE A PRIVATE CONSULTANT WITH
NO TIES TO US FIRMS WITH ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL INTERESTS HERE.
HOPEFULLY HE WILL NOT SEEK A FOURTH NON-US ALTERNATIVE.
CAMPBELL

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